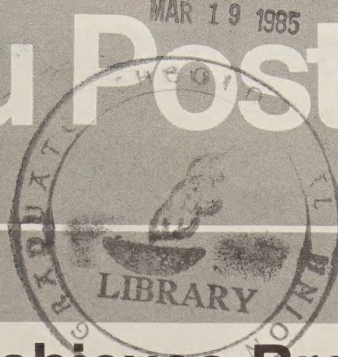


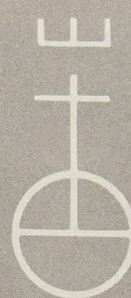
Keeping You Posted

Newsletter of the United Church of Christ

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New Policies Urged In Central America

In an appeal to President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz and key members of Congress, UCC President Avery D. Post and 14 other national staff and conference leaders have called for fundamental changes in U.S. policy in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The letter to the Government lawmakers urges the Administration and Congress to initiate investigations in all three countries on how American military and economic aid is used. It was filed after the church delegation returned in Jan. from a 12-day, 5,000-mile fact-finding trip to Central America, which included extensive conversations with church leaders and workers, government representatives, business people and American personnel.

"The overwhelming message," claims Dr. Post, "in all three countries, from right to left, is that people prefer to solve their

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Refugee families from the Salvadoran civil war live as virtual prisoners for periods of six months to five years at the San Roque Church, which has been turned into a refugee camp in the heart of the capital city, San Salvador. The Catholic Archdiocese of El Salvador gives its protection to these families, who, if left on the street, risk arrest and possible death at the hands of Government forces, who perceive them to be rebels rather than victims.

COCU Achieves Breakthrough THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT IS ADOPTED

Twenty-four years after church union was first proposed, the nine member denominations of the Consultation on Church Union have reached theological consensus. In a unanimous vote, the 90 representatives to COCU, including the UCC, have agreed to ask their parent bodies to accept a 70-page theological statement as the basis for the next step toward unity.

"This will be recognized as one of the most important documents of Protestantism in this century," explains John C. Shetler, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference minister and a delegate.

The 28,000-word document, "The COCU Consensus: In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting," calls for the mutual recognition of members and clergy, open and regular communion and joint work in mission and evangelism.

According to COCU officials, there is no definite timetable for implementing the proposals, but it is hoped that all communions will have acted by 1988.

UCC President Avery D. Post says the denomination will have two years to study the document before it is voted upon by the 16th General Synod in Cleveland in 1987.

While the proposed union is expected to retain some aspects of member churches' traditions and heritages, UCC members will find other recommendations a distinctive change

from present denominational polity. There are three forms of ordained clergy: bishops; presbyters, equivalent to today's ordained parish ministers, and deacons. According to Mr. Shetler, the UCC delegation pushed for a style of leadership in which the office of bishop is seen alongside the ministries of presbyter, deacon and all the baptized.

Two supporting documents also approved by COCU will go to churches for study and response by June 1986. One describes a "covenanting" process, a period of trust-building among the denominations as they work together. To facilitate this process, there are to be councils of oversight—interdenominational groups formed at local, regional and national levels. The other is a suggested set of liturgies for joint services which would initiate the covenant process.

The proposed 23-million-member Church of Christ Uniting would encompass the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Methodist Church as well as the UCC.

The document may be ordered at \$1.88 each, postpaid, from Order Secretary, COCU, 228 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540-7198.

Debate on Abortion Continues in UCC

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe vs. Wade*, that pregnant women have a Constitutional right to choose whether or not to have an abortion, continues to spark controversy within the UCC, despite repeated General Synod resolutions defending a woman's right to choose. Recent numerous bombings of reproductive health-care facilities by "pro-life" groups bring a new dimension to the ethical-moral debate.

On the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, the recently-formed UCC Friends of Life group, as a part of its annual meeting, participated in the national anti-abortion

demonstration at the Supreme Court, across the street from the Washington headquarters building of the UCC's Office for Church in Society, before meeting with OCIS staff there.

The purpose of that meeting was explained by Connie Carmany, director of the group: "We want them to know there is a strong pro-life contingent within the UCC and that we ask for fair treatment and funding for pro-life activities."

Faith Evans, policy advocacy associate for OCIS, who met with the group, answered:

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Yankton College Closes

With deficits running to nearly a million dollars and no money to pay them, 103-year-old UCC-related Yankton College closed its doors forever on Dec. 21, 1984.

"I regret to inform you that the 'Grand Old Lady of the Prairie' has died," wrote Yankton College president A. Edward Couch in a letter to alumni and friends.

When the 250-student college—founded by Congregationalists and the first liberal arts institution in the Dakota Territory—found it could not meet its \$120,000 Dec. payroll and the trustees could see no way to meet second semester expenses, they reluctantly decided to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

C. Shelby Rooks, executive vice president of UC Board for Homeland Ministries, said, "The closing of a church-related liberal arts school like Yankton illustrates the lack of concern society seems to have about the study of humanities, liberal arts and sciences."

Statement on Abortion Debate

*By UCC Instrumentalities'
Women's Interstaff Team*

AS VIOLENCE INCREASINGLY BECOMES A PART OF THE ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVISM AND AS DEBATE ON THE ISSUE CONTINUES WITHIN THE UCC, WE CALL UPON MEMBERS OF THE UCC OUT OF RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER TO COVENANT TOGETHER TO:

- avoid the use of slogans that inflame rather than inform;
- seek to dialogue with one another rather than wound one another;
- represent one another's points of view fairly;
- admit our struggle with doubts and weaknesses of our own positions;
- work together to create a society where children and the nurturing role are valued and where men are held responsible for the nurturing of their children;
- call men to struggle responsibly with their partners about the consequences of sexual behavior;
- work together to teach adolescents necessary knowledge, values, and self-esteem so that they do not participate in irresponsible sex.

Yankton is related to the denomination through the Homeland Board's division of higher education. The division has circulated staff resumes to the other 29 UCC-related colleges and is considering other ways to be helpful, according to James A. Smith, Jr., coordinator of church-college relations.

Meanwhile, UCC institutions around the country have rallied to help the college. Nebraska's Doane College has offered to house Yankton's records and memorabilia. Elon College sent its dean to interview faculty and staff for the sister school in North Carolina. And the United Church of Christ of Yankton has announced a campaign to meet the \$120,000 Dec. payroll for the 70 full-time and 35 part-time employees suddenly left jobless just before Christmas. Those wishing to contribute should send checks payable to "United Church of Christ YC Relief Fund," 210 W. 5 St., Yankton, SD 57078.

Abortion Debate From page 1

"It is the responsibility of this office to respond to questions about the public policy advocacy of the UCC, which is decided by General Synod. The policy is to support the Supreme Court decision giving women the Constitutional right of free choice in the matter of abortion. The UCC Friends for Life delegation is laboring under a misconception that we set that policy and decided who gets funded."

"Actions of four UCC General Synods beginning in 1971 have clearly affirmed the right of women to choose an abortion and have responsibly addressed the many complexities of the issue," says Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society executive Marilyn Breitling, in response to the questions regarding the UCC position on abortion.

The UCC instrumentalities' women's interstaff team, meeting in Jan., called upon UCC members to take a stand against the violence it reports is increasingly a part of anti-abortion activism. Team member Faith Johnson, family life and women's issues secretary for UC Board for Homeland Ministries, called upon people within the UCC "to recognize that the way we debate the issue can either fuel the fires and escalate violence or it can bring us to a deeper understanding of the issue and a deeper respect for one another." (See full text of WIST statement on this page.)

Ms. Carmany of the UCC Friends for Life group, questioned on the bombings issue, responds: "We will not allow the issue of bombings to draw attention away from the violence that is done to God's innocent unborn children, as 4,000 of them are killed in

OC Urges Lifeline Telephone Service

A bill to protect telephone service for low-income people in the wake of the AT&T breakup has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 151, the "Lifeline Telephone Service Act of 1985," would amend the Communications Act of 1934 "to assure that significant rate increases do not threaten universal service by forcing many Americans, especially the poor, the elderly, and the handicapped, to discontinue their telephone service."

The amendment would set up a fund through surcharges on interstate telephone toll services. The fund would provide payments to local phone companies to enable low-income residents to make a certain number of calls in their community for a single discounted charge.

The bill is endorsed by the UCC's Office of Communication, which urges church members to press their Congressional representatives to support it. "We are impelled to this effort by our conviction that good stewardship means such a vital communications resource must be available to everyone," explains OC director Beverly J. Chain. "To those confined to their homes, a phone provides a link with other people. In times of immobility or illness or attack, a phone call may make the difference between life and death."

this country every day by the abortion industry."

Increased clinic violence and harassment of women seeking abortion services was the subject of a speakout session sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights in Washington on the same day as the demonstration. Said RCAR director Fredrica Hodges, "As religious leaders who are dedicated to the principles of peace and harmony among all people, we deplore the use of fear, intimidation and harassment to influence public policy on serious political questions."

RCAR, in which three UCC bodies hold membership, therefore, "calls upon religious leaders all across this nation to temper the rhetoric of this debate," Ms. Hodges declared. "We also ask that they commit themselves to promoting a climate of peace and harmony among all people in their communities."

Keeping You Posted

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SEND NEWS ideas and queries to KEEPING YOU POSTED, Office of Communication, UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

UCBWM Allocates 10 Refugee Grants

Grants totaling \$49,500 to aid activities in support of refugees have been made to 10 local programs this winter by UC Board for World Ministries' division of world service.

Largest grants went to the Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services (\$10,960) and the Central American Refugee Project of the Valley Religious Task Force, Phoenix (\$10,000). The grant to the Minneapolis-based agency will help create a position for a worker who will develop sponsorships and coordinate volunteerism and advocacy in behalf of refugees and who will work directly with refugees, with an emphasis on helping them become self-sufficient. The latter grant will help the Arizona project with its newly-started work on sanctuary programs and its continuing work on education, advocacy and legal services for refugees.

Also receiving UCBWM grants were:

- Christian Refugee Outreach, Arlington, VA (\$5,000), which develops sponsorships for refugees and refers them to social service agencies.

- The Refugee Women's Program of the San Francisco Partnership Ministry (\$5,000), which gives homebound, non-English-speaking refugee women education and training in English, acculturation and job skills and provides a wide range of social services for them and their families.

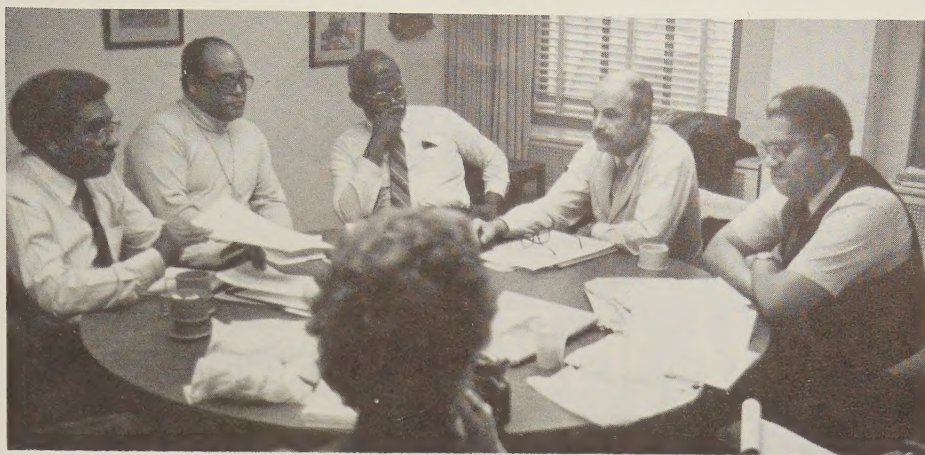
- Ecumenical Immigration Services, New Orleans, LA (\$5,000), which gives Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees free legal services on immigration matters, with high priority given to aliens jailed on the Federal tier of a local correction center. The agency does about 60% of its work with seekers of political asylum.

- The Salvadoran/Guatemalan Refugee Program of the Washington Association of Churches, Seattle (\$5,000), which raises bail bonds and provides representation for arrested Central Americans facing deportation proceedings and helps refugees find jobs, housing and social services.

- The Rio Grande Defense Committee, Edinburg, TX (\$2,540), which is coordinator of the legal defenses of arrested sanctuary workers Jack Elder and Stacy Merkt and refugees whom they were assisting. The defense committee also does education and advocacy work on the sanctuary issue.

- Centro de Asuntos Migratorios, National City, CA (\$2,000), which helps Salvadorans and other Central Americans file asylum petitions, represents them in bond hearings, helps them gain release on bond and represents them in their asylum claims.

- The Central American Refugee Center, Westbury, NY (\$2,000), which represents



C. Shelby Rooks (second from L) meets with presidents of six predominantly Black colleges founded by the American Missionary Association to discuss new directions, priorities and cooperative relationships with UC Board for Homeland Ministries.

refugees in proceedings with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The grant will help the center establish an office to coordinate legal defense work.

- The Refugee Program of the Syracuse (NY) Area Interreligious Council (\$2,000), which develops refugee sponsorships with local churches and does other advocacy in behalf of refugees and seekers of asylum.

OCIS Seeks Votes On Peace, Justice

Three key votes on producing MX missiles, resuming aid to the Nicaraguan contras and prohibiting new U.S. bank loans to South Africa are expected to come before the 99th Congress.

"Anytime after Mar. 1, the President is expected to request Congress to release funds for production of 21 MX missiles. The House and Senate each must vote twice to allow this resumption of production," reports James Wetekam, Office for Church in Society policy advocacy assistant.

"After Feb. 28, President Reagan can request Congress to release \$14 million in aid for the contras. Within 30 days of his request, both houses of Congress must vote. Only if both vote yes, will the aid be resumed," explains Gretchen C. Eick, OCIS policy advocacy associate.

Proposed restrictions on U.S. companies and banks doing business in South Africa were defeated in the last session of Congress, but are likely to be reconsidered in 1985.

OCIS urges UCC members to write their Congressional representatives opposing the MX and aid to the contras and favoring the restrictions on loans to the South African Government.

OCIS & CRJ Back Spring Actions

OCIS, along with the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice, has also joined over 50 religious, peace, human rights and union

'A.D.' Series Draws A Mixed Reception

"A.D.," a 12-hour mini-series which is a dramatic retelling of biblical and historical events surrounding the birth of the Christian church, will air Mar. 31 through Apr. 4 on NBC television stations. Segments of the series drew mixed reactions from church previewers.

"'A.D.' is a welcome addition to the growing list of mini-series being presented on commercial television," says Robert E. Koenig, curriculum editor-in-chief with UC Board for Homeland Ministries' division of publication and one of 31 editors and leaders who watched segments at a recent screening at NBC offices in New York. "It presents the development of the early church in the context of its times—showing its relation both to Jewish and Roman cultures."

However, he continues, "One wishes that it would have paid more attention to the influence of Greek culture as well."

groups in calling on citizens to speak out Apr. 19-22 in Washington, DC for peace, jobs and justice.

The actions urge a halt to military intervention in Central America and elsewhere, the creation of jobs while the military budget is cut, a freeze and reversal of the arms race and opposition to South African apartheid and racism at home. They consist of educational and cultural events on Apr. 19, a march and rally Apr. 20, training sessions Apr. 21 and advocacy with Government officials for some and civil disobedience for others Apr. 22. Actions are also planned for San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle.

"The millions of people in South Africa suffering under the dual oppression of apartheid and constructive engagement, as well as the peoples of other repressive regimes backed by this Administration, depend upon us to support them in their struggle," remarks CRJ executive director Charles E. Cobb.



DEFLANCE

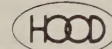


Illinois College

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LAKEVIEW COLLEGE



WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

CELEBRATE

UCC COLLEGE HERITAGE DAY 1985

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

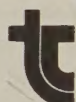
(or another date of your choice)

- Deepen awareness and understanding of the heritage of the United Church of Christ, linking faith and learning
- Celebrate the mission of the UCC in education in today's world
- Affirm the contributions to church and nation of the educational institutions related to the UCC
- Call the UCC-related educational institutions to the attention of UCC members and friends who may be considering further education for themselves or their family members

Use the coupon below to order free bulletin inserts for your congregation and suggestions for your celebration.



NORTHLAND COLLEGE



TO: Council for Higher Education of the UCC
 Attn: James A. Smith, Jr.
 United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
 132 West 31 Street
 New York, NY 10001

Please send us _____ (number) free bulletin inserts for UCC College Heritage Day 1985 and suggestions for our celebration.

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ZIP

That All May Have Life

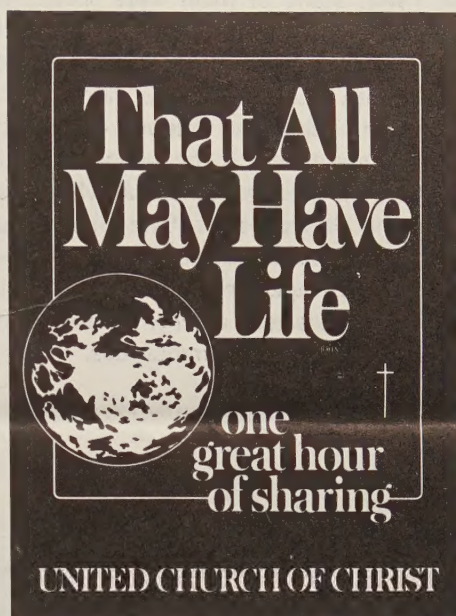
Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness." The public media daily reminds us of the countless millions in Ethiopia and other African countries who are denied even the barest minimum of life.

The African hunger crisis has called to our attention the need for a rapid, effective response to human disasters. But we have also been challenged to intensify efforts to forestall such human suffering in the land. The Ethiopian crisis didn't "just happen." It was in the making for many years. Similar crises now threaten elsewhere. But we can make a difference! Those human tragedies do not have to happen! The Church is involved in many efforts to eliminate the root causes of human hunger and despair. Developing water resources, introducing improved methods of agriculture and enhancing an appreciation for the environment are but a few of the many ways in which our One Great Hour of Sharing dollars are working in the struggle to improve the lives of God's children.

Once a year members of the United Church of Christ have the opportunity to give to this vital ministry through One Great Hour of sharing. March 17, 1985 is the suggested date this year, but congregations are free to select any Sunday suited to their schedules. Whatever the date, we need to increase our giving in 1985 if the United Church Board for World Ministries is to respond adequately to the many urgent requests for partnership in development efforts, disaster relief, refugee assistance, and social work activities in nearly seventy countries. Although 1984 giving for OGHS in the United Church of Christ was more than \$2.9 million—the highest in our history—the total amounted to less than two dollars per member. Christ calls his followers to faithful obedience and stewardship of his gifts to us.

We rejoice at the recent response within the United Church of Christ to the African crisis. That same outpouring of Christian concern must continue as we strengthen the efforts of our partners around the world to bring the life that Christ wills for all his people—life in all its fullness.

Lloyd G. Van Vactor
General Secretary, Division of World Mission
United Church Board for World Ministries



More money has been given by UCC congregations to the African hunger crisis than to any other recent **DISASTER**. These gifts are helping to provide medical care and to feed, clothe, and house hundreds of thousands in Ethiopia and many other African nations. Disaster appeals come from Christian partners in the United States and around the world throughout the year. In 1984 the UCBWM responded to 34 crises. In 1985 the United Church of Christ will be joining with the Church of The Brethren disaster response team in a child care program to be implemented where needed in the United States. Several UCC members are being trained to serve as disaster response coordinators in their conferences. OGHS provides not only emergency assistance when needed but also sustaining support when other relief agencies have withdrawn.



The future for these young Vietnamese **REFUGEES** in the Philippines Refugee Processing Center looks brighter because of the concern of many local congregations. The UCBWM Refugee office assisted in resettling 492 refugees in 1984. Many of them were sponsored by UCC congregations. OGHS funds are assisting local church-related resettlement agencies to offer English classes, job skill training programs, and to help meet refugee emergency needs. Another concern is the refugees fleeing the violence in Central America who need asylum in the United States. One Great Hour of Sharing has assisted several local congregations and church agencies by contributing to legal defense funds and emergency needs for these refugees in their communities.



"Development means something far beyond the increase of goods and services," wrote the late E. F. Schumacher. "It means the **DEVELOPMENT** of people, the unfolding of their innate abilities, the liberation of the human spirit." Palestinians, still refugees in their homeland after nearly forty years, are encouraged by this understanding of development. Women have been enabled to start their own dress-making shops after receiving skills in training in programs sponsored by the Middle East Council of Churches' Palestinian Refugee Services. More important than job-skill training, these Christian-sponsored efforts assure Palestinians that there are those who care and who stand in solidarity with them in their current suffering. In Turkey, the Philippines, and Honduras, among many countries, partner agencies reach out, empowering men and women in urban areas as well as remote and isolated villages with new skills and a new vision.

From the crowded slums of Hong Kong, Manila, and Athens to the remote rural areas of Turkey and Palestine, **SOCIAL WORK** programs supported by OGHS minister to the human needs of God's children. In a Palestinian village a young mother receives guidance in child rearing at a social-service center sponsored by the Middle East Council of Churches. In September 1985, the Social Work Foundation in Athens will inaugurate a new rehabilitation center for cerebral palsy victims. Now an independent Greek foundation, the SWF was founded after World War II by missionaries of the American Board, one of the predecessor agencies of the UCBWM. Family planning programs are often vital components in many of the family-service centers supported in part by One Great Hour of Sharing.

* * * * *

In disaster response, development efforts, social work assistance, and refugee programs, the needs are great and the opportunities for service and witness are many. Through One Great Hour of Sharing members of the United Church of Christ can help tens of thousands of God's children — "THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE."



Prepared by UC Board for World Ministries and Stewardship Council

The UCC Vision and Our Corporate Worship

By Louis H. Gunnemann

To be a "united and uniting church" is the oft-used phrase to characterize the vision that created the United Church of Christ. The importance of that vision for the church's corporate worship is obvious. For, in its corporate worship, the church exhibits its self-understanding and strengthens the bonds of its corporate life. However, the way in which the vision of unity, and our responsibility for it, finds expression in worship is not always "up front" in our thinking. That reality undercuts our commitment to be "united and uniting."

We know that the power which engenders unity among us is not derived from any special wisdom we may have. It is, rather, the gift of Christ's presence among us. His presence defines and gives shape to worship, making it not only an exhibit of unity but a means of realization and actualization as well.

For this reason the church has always understood Word and Sacraments as *the* essential elements of *Christian* worship. In them Christ is known. Through them Christ is formed in the lives of his people. By them the gifts of the Spirit are shared to make all persons one in Christ. The presence of Christ, sacramentally known, is the reality of the gift of unity. Likewise, the possibility of being a "united and uniting church" depends upon the sacramental presence of Christ.

All of this, of course, underlines a pressing need in the UCC for a renewed understanding of Baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion). The persistent influence of sectarian definitions of these sacraments hinders the expression of unity in the UCC as it does in all denominations. The privatistic religiosity that characterizes so much of Western Christianity makes baptismal and eucharistic practice divisive.

Recovery of baptismal and eucharistic

understanding gives new and much-needed direction and content to our corporate worship, making it an authentic exhibit of the unity we have in Christ. Equally important is its energizing and formative effect upon our commitment to our vision of being a "united and uniting church."

For, in Baptism, the sacrament of our calling, we share Christ's baptism and are identified with the outcast and the oppressed, the needy and the hopeless, for whom Christ died. This is the foundation of the discipleship which is nurtured at the Lord's Table in the Eucharistic celebration. In this participation we know our "oneness" in Christ and are enabled to be in his service as a "united and uniting church."

The retired dean of United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, MN, Louis H. Gunnemann was on the faculty of that school since its creation, teaching Christian history and theology. He is author of The Shaping of the United Church of Christ.

Priorities Report

Youth/Young Adult Ministries

The Commission for Racial Justice and Office for Church in Society co-sponsored a national youth training event in Jan. in Washington, DC to give racial and ethnic UCC youth and young adult leaders skills to understand and carry out public policy advocacy in the church. Thirty youth representatives from the Council for American Indian Ministry, Pacific and Asian-American Ministries, United Black Christians, the Council for Hispanic Ministries and Ministers for Racial and Social Justice were also instructed on how they can encourage UCC young people on the local level to get involved in the established networks of the church to address major social issues. One of the first efforts to bring together minority youth of all the ethnic constituencies of the denomination, the meeting included worship along with speakers and workshops. It was funded by the Family Thank Offering. A videotape of the event is being developed by CRJ.

An agreement between a UCC-related college in Wisconsin and a nearby community college has given Native American students better access to financial aid and has enlarged a program of tribal management studies. Northland College in Ashland and Lac Courte Oreilles Objibwa Community College near Hayward are trying the arrangement for one semester this year. In the past, students working toward an associate's degree

in tribal management at the two-year, unaccredited community college could not apply for Federal and state financial aid. Now, joined with fully-accredited Northland, the enlarged program of tribal management studies becomes a four-year major, allowing students who enroll in it to apply for Federal and state aid.

Peace

On a visit to the nation's capital last fall, members of the Maine Conference Peacemaking Team hand-delivered more than 600 helium balloons to their Congressional representatives, along with messages calling attention to issues of war and peace, abundance and poverty, security and insecurity. The event, dubbed "The Message From Maine," also drew representatives from the UCC Office for Church in Society and five Washington-area churches. Simultaneously, back in Maine, representatives of Woodfords Congregational Church gave legislators in Portland single balloons and messages calling for an end to the nuclear arms race and for other policies to reduce Soviet-American tensions and encourage world peace.

San Lucas UCC, Chicago, has declared itself a "nuclear free zone" as a way of "giving witness that we want peace in this world, not destruction," reports pastor Mary Lou Porrata. "We are aware of cities and countries declaring themselves 'NFZs,' but we are

proud to claim to be the first Hispanic church in America to take such an important and significant action of faith. We encourage other churches in the UCC to take similar actions." Other churches in the Chicago area have done so, including Wellington Avenue UCC and Bethany UCC.

Family Life

A film strip, "Every Child Is My Child," is available through Church Leadership Resources. Developed by UC Board for Homeland Ministries in cooperation with the UCC Stewardship Council, the film strip celebrates the joys of children, identifies problems that children face in society, encourages advocacy in behalf of children and looks at the church's role. The 10-minute filmstrip with cassette costs \$15. For information, contact Church Leadership Resources, 1400 N. 7 St., St. Louis, MO 63106, 800-325-7061 or 314-621-1330.

The UCC's New York Conference has trained 15 of its lay and ordained people as "family life resources." They are equipped to help local churches answer questions, clarify needs and find resources related to family ministries. Their names, addresses and phone numbers have been published throughout the conference, along with each one's area of specialization, such as minority families, families with children of certain ages, young married couples, women's concerns and families with disabled persons.

Central America

From page 1

problems themselves rather than to allow U.S. interference."

The church officials contend that in Honduras, after the expenditure of millions of dollars of American taxpayers' money, the end result is a "substantial decline in the standard of living." The letter goes on to challenge the way such economic aid is used, charging that "much of the aid benefits the private sector at the expense of the poor," while development is geared toward the export market.

The UCC leaders urge the 99th Congress to continue its ban on Government funding of the Nicaraguan contras and call for an investigation to determine if funding by American corporations, private groups and individuals of Honduran- and Nicaraguan-based contras is illegal.

Congress is also asked to reinstate its requirement tying all aid to El Salvador to an

improvement in human rights. In conversations with a cross-section of Salvadorans, the majority believe that American aid will continue "even if nothing is done to reduce rights violations," reports Dr. Post. The church leaders conclude that Washington needs to use its influence to encourage a "vigorous investigation" by Salvadoran President Duarte of the role of right-wing military leaders in suppression of human rights.

Along with Dr. Post, those signing the letter are Beverly J. Chain, director of the Office of Communication; Ann Marie Coleman, Ann Arbor, MI, chair of the executive committee of the Office for Church in Society; Yvonne V. Delk, executive director of OCIS; Scott S. Libbey, executive vice president of UC Board for World Ministries; Alan N. McLarty, Phoenix, AZ, associate minister of the Southwest Conference; D. Curtis Minter, Burlington, Vermont Conference minister; Calle Rogers-Witte, Raleigh, NC, member of the UCC Executive Council;

Daniel Romano, Pasadena, associate minister of the Southern California Conference; Patricia J. Rumer, regional secretary for Latin America, Caribbean and Oceania, UCBWM; Alfredo Santiago, Santurce, president of the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico; Horace S. Sills, Harrisburg, president of the Penn Central Conference; James Tomasek, Jr., Austin, TX, minister of the South Central Conference; Frederick R. Trost, Madison, minister of the Wisconsin Conference, and Alfred E. Williams, Jr., Framingham, minister and president of the Massachusetts Conference.

At press time, the President's Office was preparing a pastoral letter on Central America, its second, along with a report on the trip and recommendations for local church action. It is to be sent to every congregation in the denomination under the signatures of Drs. Post, Delk, Libbey and C. Shelby Rooks, executive vice president of UC Board for Homeland Ministries, who was unable to go.

Job Opportunity

BANGOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY seeks instructor in Christian theology, effective Aug. 1. Applicants should possess an M. Div. or equivalent degree plus a Ph.D. or Th.D. in Christian theology. Inquiries should be directed, by Mar. 15, to Dean Walter R. Dickhaut, Bangor Theological Seminary, 300 Union St., Bangor, ME 04401.

Obituary

Grace Nichols, 85, former missionary to Ceylon and then India from 1923 to 1953, died Jan. 10 in Wellesley, MA. During her service with UC Board for World Ministries, she supervised a number of schools and was an active participant in women's work. She also helped train church workers.

Upcoming Events

Registrations are still being accepted for "In Christ's Name in Our Time," the annual ecumenical conference on evangelism and church growth set for Mar. 17-19 at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA. The event will include biblical and theological addresses and work groups on theology and practice. UCC members will give two of the addresses and lead six of the 11 workshops. The event, open to anyone, is sponsored by UCC-related Andover Newton, by the division of evangelism and church extension of UC Board for Homeland Ministries and by the Massachusetts Conference. Registration fees after Mar. 4 are \$30 for the entire conference or \$15 for a single day. Meals and lodging will be available at the school at extra cost. For details, contact M.B.

Handpicker, Andover Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02159, 617-964-1100.

"Confessing the Apostolic Faith Today" will be the theme of the 1985 convocation of the Mercersburg Society, May 13-15 in St. John's UCC, Chambersburg, PA. Among the topics will be liturgical renewal, the Evangelical revival, the Lutheran-Reformed dialogue and the apostolic faith. Brothers of the Taizé Community will lead daily matins. Eucharistic services will be held at St. John's and in the chapel of Mercersburg Academy. A fee of \$100 will cover lodging at Wilson College, meals and registration. Inquiries and letters of registration should be directed to Stephen Hoffman, St. John's UCC, 1811 Lincoln Way E., Chambersburg, PA 17201-3390, 717-263-8593.

Roy E. Pell



Seng Ty, a Cambodian refugee, and David Imbili of Namibia visit with members of Bethel UCC, Kansas City, MO, during the "Children of War" tour, sponsored by the Religious Task Force of Mobilization for Survival.

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